

A
P R O P O S A L
For Improving and Adorning the
Island of GREAT BRITAIN;

FOR THE
Maintenance of our NAVY and SHIPPING;
FOR THE *Made E*
Employment and perpetual Relief of our ^KPOOR;

FOR
Increasing the Number of our INHABITANTS;

AND FOR
Various other PUBLIC SERVICES;
By Parochial Plantations of Timber, and other Trees,
upon the Forests, Chaces, Commons, and Waste
Grounds throughout the Kingdom.

These are imperial Works, and worthy Kings. POPE.

L O N D O N :
Printed for R. and J. DODSLEY, in Pall-mall. 1755.

PROPOSAL

For Improving and Adorning the

Island of GREAT BRITAIN;

Maintenance of our Navy and Shipping;



Employment and perpetual Relief of our Poor;

FOR

Increasing the Number of our Inhabitants;

AND FOR

Various other Public Services;

By Personal Contributions of Timber, and other Trees,
upon the Lords, Clergy, Commons, and Waste
Grounds throughout the Kingdom.

Proposed by Sir John Lubbock, Bart. and others.

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TO HIS
MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
KING GEORGE THE SECOND,
THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE,
THE PROTECTOR OF HIS COUNTRY,
AND
THE BEST BELOVED OF MONARCHS,

THIS PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING AND ADORNING HIS
ISLAND OF GREAT BRITAIN ;
FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HIS SUBJECTS ;
FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HIS NAVY ;
AND
FOR THE EMPLOYMENT AND PERPETUAL RELIEF
OF THE POOR ;
IS, WITH THE PROFOUNDTEST RESPECT,
MOST HUMBLY INSCRIBED,
BY
HIS MAJESTY'S
MOST DUTIFUL,
AND MOST OBEDIENT SUBJECT,

EDWARD WADE.

MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
KING GEORGE THE SECOND
THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE
THE PROTECTOR OF HIS COUNTRY
AND
THE BENEFICENT MONARCH

THE REQUEST FOR AID AND ADDRESSING THE
REAR ADMIRAL
FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HIS SHIPS
FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NAVY
AND

THE REQUEST FOR AID AND ADDRESSING THE
OF THE ROYAL
IN THE MOST RESPECT
MOST HUMBLY REQUESTING
HIS MAJESTY
MOST DESIRABLE
ASSISTANCE
EDWARD WHITE

A

P R O P O S A L

For Improving and Adorning the

Island of GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

SINCE the Maintenance of the Poor is now become exceeding chargeable to the several Parishes throughout the Kingdom, and the heavy Burthen is likely to continue, and even increase, unless some Remedy be applied, every Attempt hitherto made for that Purpose having proved ineffectual ; a Proposal that carries with it a probable Appearance of establishing a perpetual Fund for their Employment and Relief in case of the Parishioners, as it is of great public as well as private Consequence, it is presumed will be received with Candor and due Attention,

especially if it also tends to the improving, fertilizing, and adorning our Country, and to the Support of that Navigation which makes our Condition flourishing at Home, and our Power respectable Abroad. But the Nature of Man is generally so fickle, impatient, and selfish, and he so little regards Posterity, that the following Subject, either on account of a few Difficulties which by Perseverance alone can be got over, or from the Regards of private Interest, or by reason of the distant Period of its full Completion, may possibly by some narrow-minded Persons be slighted. But to the Honour of our Country be it spoken, we have at present Men, and some in high Stations, who have Ability and Inclination to enter into Inquiries of this Nature with mature Deliberation, and will generously prefer public Utility to private Views; and who, if upon the whole the Scheme shall appear practicable and beneficial, although remotely so with respect to its Advantages, will carry it with full Effect into Execution.

It has been justly lamented that through universal Sloth and Ignorance, and impolitic Neglect and Waste, the Quantity of Timber in this Nation is greatly lessened, and every Year diminishing: and it being now become the general Humor and Fashion for the Nobility and Gentry of this Kingdom, with their Families, for the most part to reside in the Capital; which by increasing to too large a Bulk makes our Island resemble a ricketty Constitution ;
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the Country is by this means deserted in a great measure by those Inhabitants from whom its great Improvements have hitherto been derived, and by whose Hospitality the Poor have been employed and relieved. The permitting too many Alienations in *Mortmain* has also contributed to drive the best Families from their Country-Seats, and to stop the Progress of Improvements. For upon the spendthrift Heir selling his paternal Estate to a Body corporate, in the Room of the worthy Country Gentleman at the Head of his Family, residing in the Manor House, doing all kind of good Offices to his Tenants and Neighbours, and to every one round him, helping the Poor, universally beloved and respected, and joining the Experience of his Ancestors to his own for managing his Estate to the best Advantage; we find the hungry gripping Steward, who, by means of the Indolence and want of Knowledge of his Masters of the Nature of the Estate, who only make a pompous and expensive Visit to it once in two or three Years, oppresses the Tenants and dictates to the Landlords, without a thought of Improvement. And this must go on to the End of Time, being the Property of an immortal Body; for which reason, amongst others, Perpetuities are odious in our Law: the Circulation of Estates being, in legal Estimation, as much for the Interest of the Body Politic, for the Encouragement

ment of Trade and Industry, as the Circulation of the Blood and Juices is for the Health of the natural Body.

The Cultivation of landed Estates in *England* are therefore generally left to poor Leasehold Tenants, who have a natural Enmity to Trees and Timber, from an established Opinion amongst them, grounded upon Experience, that they do their Crops an Injury ; for which reason they destroy them when young upon their first Appearance, and even when grown up cut off their Tops, and make Pollards of them. The Consequence of which is, that the Heart of the Tree being exposed to the Sun, Rain, Frosts, and Snow, becomes rotten through the middle quite down to the Root, so that the Pollard is hollow, and fit in a few Years for no Use whatsoever but the Fire. And these Tenants, generally speaking, have frequently neither sufficient Substance to stock their Farms, nor Inclination to improve their Landlord's Estates ; but, at best, after paying their Rack Rents, make a hard Shift to get a scanty Living for themselves and Families, with Understandings but very little enlarged. The Clergy are also following fast the Example of their Patrons by Non-Residence upon their Country Cures, and appointing of Curates to exercise their Functions in their Stead, even in populous Parishes. So that Affairs in this Respect are in a very declining Way in the several Counties ; and the proper

proper Superintendency of the landed Estates in this Kingdom is but little understood, and less practised, in Comparison of what it might be if the Knowledge of Agriculture was made a Part of a liberal Education, and the Owners generally lived and resided upon their Estates.

This Care, which is of the greatest Importance as well to private Families as to the Public, is now generally left to ignorant and self-interested Land-Stewards and Servants; who having neither Capacity nor Inclination for the projecting and planning of noble and extensive Improvements, are remarkably negligent in the most obvious Part of their Duty, even in preventing the Spoil and Waste of the Tenants; for Gentlemen of Fortune account it a shame either for themselves, or their Children, to be employed in the Husbandry Affairs. They chuse rather to live upon their Revenues, and take their Pleasures; whilst they resign the Management of their Estates, and the Concerns of their respective Country Parishes, to ignorant Servants. The necessary Consequence of which is, that such of their Children and Descendants who are well disposed to look into the Affairs of their Estates, are so totally void of this useful Knowledge as to be easily liable to be imposed upon, and incapable of doing it properly, it having been no Part of their Education, although a most necessary one; and therefore are soon discouraged, and give it over, and are by this means Sufferers to an unknown Degree in their Fortunes.

Male agitur cum Domino quem villicus docet.

And it were to be wished that there was not too much reason to complain of the Luxury and Extravagance of the present and former Ages, as being the Occasion of an infinite Number of Trees being cut down before they are grown near to Maturity.

It is much to be lamented that former Administrations have so little attended to the Preservation and Improvement of our Woods, that we never had a less Quantity of large Timber for the Use of the Royal Navy than at present ; witness the Prices given the last War for Government Timber, when almost any that bore the Name of Oak of the proper Dimensions was deemed marketable : witness the Demand there is now for it, and the perpetual journeyings of the Purveyors of the Navy into every Corner of the Kingdom to purchase of private Persons the largest Trees that can be found for the Supply of the King's Yards.

The first Act of Parliament that passed for the Preservation of Timber is in the thirty-fifth Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, by which it is enacted, that upon the felling of Coppice, or Underwoods, twelve Standils, or Storers of Oak, or if none of that kind, Elm, Ash, or Beech, shall be left upon every Acre, until they should become ten Inches square three Foot from the Ground, upon the Penalty of three Shillings and four Pence for every Tree omitted, with a clause to prevent the grubbing

bing of Coppices ; and yet every Year's Experience shews us how this salutary Law is evaded by this Piece of Clown Craft, *viz.* when the Coppice is felled they cut down the Storers left the last cutting ten Years before (supposing the Underwood to be cut down at ten Years Growth) and which consequently are twenty Years Growth, and leave in the room twelve that have grown up since the last cutting which are only ten Years Growth, that the Number required by the Act of Parliament may be found standing; and this is repeated from time to time, and is also a common Trick practised by Tenants, who are required by their Leases to leave standing in the Hedge Rows a stated Number of Trees. By which unjust Practice the Timber is never suffered to get to any size, but is always at a stay.

There are four several Acts made in Queen Elizabeth's Reign for the Preservation of Underwood, and for preventing the Erection of Iron-mills in particular Counties, except upon old Bays, and to prohibit the converting to Fuel for the making of Iron in any Iron-mills, Furnace, or Hammer, any Wood or Underwood within twenty-two Miles of the River *Thames*, from *Dorchester* in *Oxfordshire* downwards, which seem principally intended for the Increase of Fuel.

In the 20th Year of King *Charles* the Second, an Act passed for inclosing eleven thousand Acres in the Forest of

Deane, in which is a Clause, that all Grants of the Timber should be void.

In the 9th and 10th of King *William* the Third, it was enacted, that two thousand Acres should be inclosed in New Forest in *Hampshire*, and that not only all Grants of the Timber there growing should be void; but that the Grantee should forfeit treble the Value, and be rendered incapable of enjoying any Office.

And these Clauses have secured the Timber growing in this Inclosure in the New Forest, which the Act before in King *Charles's* Reign could not do; but, at the same time, has occasioned its being neglected, as hereafter will be mentioned.

In King *George* the First's Time, two Acts were made for preserving Plantations, by making the Townships and Parishes liable to make good the Damage done if they did not convict the Offender, which must be looked upon as the main Security of those Plantations, it being undoubtedly true in general, that in these lesser Communities, canton'd out of the several Counties, the Interest of the whole is considered more immediately as affecting Individuals, and stimulates with more Force than in a larger Sphere. And these are the Acts passed for the Preservation of Wood and Timber in *England*.

And is it not amazing, and hardly credible (and yet the Fact is undoubtedly true, and known to thousands) that,

that, notwithstanding the Act of Parliament in King *Charles* the Second's Reign for inclosing eleven thousand Acres in the Forest of *Deane*, and the Clause therein inserted that all Grants made of the Timber should be void ; yet the Timber in that Forest, *to speak tenderly*, is but of small Account, and almost all destroyed. Altho' this Forest in Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign was of so much consequence to our Navy, that the *Spaniards* who had got Intelligence of it, amongst other their Instructions to the Commanders of their *Armada* set out for the Invasion of *England* in the Year 1588, gave it particularly in charge to cut down and destroy, by all possible Means, the Trees growing in this Forest, thereby intending, as much as in them lay, to prevent our building future Navies, which Directions were discovered amongst the Papers found on board some of their Ships then taken. And although the New Forest in *Hampshire* is the Property of the Crown, and of a great Extent, and a proper Soil for the Growth of the largest Oak Timber fit for the Navy ; and although the inclosing the Ground alone from the Deer and Cattle, without any Plantation, has been by Experience found sufficient for growing and raising Oak Timber in that Forest as well as the Forest of *Deane* ; and notwithstanding the Nearness of its Situation to *Portsmouth* Dock, one of the principal for Navy-Building in the Kingdom ; yet no such Inclosure has been made

made for the Purpose of raising Timber since King *William's* Reign, except an Inclosure made in the present Reign. And is it not still more surprizing, that even King *William's* Inclosure which has produced an infinite Number of tall taper Oak Trees, through Ignorance, Unskilfulness, or Neglect, by reason of not thinning the Trees whilst young, is in no sort of Probability of producing Timber of sufficient Dimensions for building Men of War; the Nature of the Oak Tree being well known to Persons skilled in Timber to be such, that in case for thirty or forty Years the Trees grow up too close together and too thick, so that the Roots and Boughs cannot extend themselves, but are cramped and pent up, the Body indeed is lofty and tapering by this Means, but of a small Diameter; and the Fact is, that it will now be too late by thinning and reducing their Number to enlarge the Body, which Work should have been gone about earlier, it being now stunted and got to its stay as to its Body. How have the Royal Grants for Timber upon particular Forests throughout this Nation aforesaid been abused, and under colour thereof what Havock and Waste has been committed? But I forbear further mention of these things, lest it should seem intended to aggravate, which is not designed; and not in the least doubting that when the Mischiefs are discovered and laid open, proper and effectual Remedies

Remedies will be applied immediately to prevent the like for the future.

Since therefore the public as well as private Attention has been too much diverted from preserving our Timber, let it be considered whether a Regulation may not be made effectual by a Parliamentary Provision, as well for the constant Supply of Timber for the Use of the Navigation of the Kingdom, and other Uses, as at the same time, and by the same Methods, for the Employment and perpetual Relief of the Poor by Parochial Plantations : this part of the Ecclesiastical Division of the Kingdom into Parishes, being now generally followed preferably to the Civil, having been preserved with greater Care and Exactness by the Parishioners throughout *England* in their annual Perambulations, attended by the Minister or his Curate.

It is to be observed, that there are in most Parishes in the Kingdom Commons, Wastes, Greens, Heaths and Moors ; and although the Soil belongs to the Lord of the Manor, the Pasture is his, in Conjunction with the Tenants and Inhabitants. About four Acres of this Ground might be set apart for a Nursery for the Propagation of Timber Trees, the fencing in of which from Cattle by the Poor, and the digging it for sowing or planting, will cost very little. . The Space of Ground, though small, will supply a sufficient Number of young Trees, to be afterwards transplanted throughout the waste Grounds in the Parish ; for

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it cannot be imagined without the Experience of it, what an incredible Number of young Trees such a Nursery is capable of producing. The Method of planting the Seed, which at the proper Season may be got in large Quantities, and will cost nothing, is as easy as the setting of Peas or Beans; and the Hoing and Weeding of them, and the transplanting, securing, watering, and attending them at first, may be done by the Poor without Expence, and with very little Inspection and Assistance, this being a Work almost every Country Hedger and Ditcher is conversant in; and the Trees will in a few Years be strong enough to shift for themselves. What therefore would be the Labour and Expence in planting out many thousand Trees annually, when many hundreds may be transplanted and secured in a Week? Or the other Method might be followed, that is, to inclose, plow, and sow with Seed a proper Number of Acres of the Waste, and when the Trees are out of Danger from the Reach of the Cattle, and the proposed Number for standing are set out, the rest of the Wood will be an immediate Profit by cutting for proper Uses, and either the Inclosures or part of them may be continued as Underwood, or may be thrown open to the Common, and new Inclosures made from time to time, until the proposed Number of Trees are raised, and the intended Quantity of Land planted, which shall be judged best. And although by this last Way of proceeding, the Risque of killing the Trees by transplanting, and the Labour

bour of securing and watering them, may be avoided ; yet in particular Parishes there may be good Reasons to follow the former Method, arising from the Nature and Extent of their Waste ; but it is a good Circumstance where the Foundation of the Design will admit of a Choice.

And as it has been a Law in some Parts of *Germany*, that no Person shall be permitted to marry until he can make it appear he has planted a stated Number of Walnut Trees, which has filled a very barren Part of the Country with that useful Tree ; so it may be here enacted, that no Person shall be intitled to certain public Advantages, unless he has planted a certain Number of Trees in a Parish for the Benefit of the Poor ; and every Householder and Inhabitant in a Parish may by Law be made liable to be called upon at certain times to plant or cause to be planted a certain Number of Trees for this Purpose, as well as they are now obliged to do Duty upon the Highways, if such Assistance should be found necessary, which it is most probable will not be the Case. And why might not our Soldiers be likewise usefully employed in this great National Undertaking now the War is at an End ? They would thereby not only be kept from Idleness and Debauchery, but also enabled to pay back again to their Country some Part of the Charges and Expences it is put to for their Support, and by this Means avoid the

Reproach thrown upon them, of their being at best as use-
less in Time of Peace as Chimnies in Summer.

And for Encouragement, let us attend a little to the Ac-
counts we have of the prodigious Improvements made, and
the Wealth that has been acquired by planting and raising
Timber. The Story of the *Italian* Nobleman is remarkable,
who upon his Lady's being brought to bed of a Daughter,
considering that Wood and Timber was a Revenue coming
in whilst the Owners were asleep, immediately set about
planting one hundred thousand Trees of Oaks, Ashes, and
other Forest Trees, which before his Daughter became
marriageable would be worth twenty Pence a-piece, which
is almost ten thousand Pounds. And this is said to be a
common Practice in *Flanders* upon the very same Account.

The late learned and most ingenious Mr. *Evelyn*
(Grandfather of the present worthy Sir *John*) has in
his *Sylva* given us many authentic Instances of great En-
couragement for planting Forest Trees, viz. " That in a
" certain Parcel of Land lying in *Carbrook* in the County
" of *Norfolk*, there were five hundred Oak Saplings offered
" to a Dealer in Timber for two Shillings and six Pence
" a-piece, which he refusing to give, twenty-five Years
" afterwards they were better worth than five hundred
" Pounds. That in the Year 1636 an hundred Timber
" Trees of Oak growing on some Grounds at *Scopelton* in
" the

" the same County, were that Year sold for one hundred
 " Pounds; but a Refusal happening which continued the
 " Trees standing till the Year 1671, those very Trees were
 " sold for five hundred and sixty Pounds. That a
 " Gentleman in that County planted an Ash which he
 " sold for forty Shillings before his Death, but that this was
 " frequent. That he was assured, that three Acres of bar-
 " ren Land sown with Acorns about sixty Years before, was
 " then become a very thriving Wood, and that the Im-
 " provement of those few Acres amounted to three hun-
 " dred Pounds more than the Rent of the Land, and
 " what it was before worth to be sold. That upon the
 " Estate of a Gentleman in the County of *Southampton* a
 " Survey of Timber being taken in 1659, it came to ten
 " thousand three hundred Pounds, besides near ten thousand
 " Samplers not valued, and growing up naturally; since
 " which there was made by several Sales five thousand six
 " hundred Pounds, and felled for Repairs, Buildings, and
 " necessary Uses, to the Value at the least of twelve hun-
 " dred Pounds. The Timber upon the same Ground be-
 " ing again surveyed in the Year 1677, appeared to be
 " worth above twenty-one thousand Pounds, besides eight
 " or nine thousand Samplers and young Trees not reckoned
 " in the Survey. But what is yet to be observed, most of
 " the Timber above mentioned being Oak, grew in
 " Hedge-Rows, so that the standing of it did very little

" prejudice the Plow or Pasture. It is likewise affirmed,
 " that upon a Living in the same Place of about forty
 " Pounds *per Annum* Rent, there was by an Estimation
 " taken in the Year 1653 three hundred and thirty-eight
 " young Timber Trees valued at fifty-nine Pounds, the
 " Saplings at thirty-one Pounds fourteen Shillings. And
 " that upon a later Survey taken in the Year 1677 the
 " worth of the Timber in that Living is valued at above
 " eight hundred Pounds, besides four or five hundred
 " young thriving Trees, which have since the Survey in
 " 1653 grown naturally up, not reckoned in this Ac-
 " count. Upon which he concludes, that with such and
 " the like Instances coming to him from Persons and
 " Gentlemen of unquestionable Credit, dispersed through
 " several other Counties of this Nation, he could furnish
 " a just Volume; and that he produced these Examples
 " because they are conspicuous, full of Encouragement,
 " and worthy our Imitation. And that from these and
 " fundry others which he could enumerate, he had made
 " this Observation, that almost any Soil is proper for some
 " profitable Timber Trees or other, which is good for
 " very little else. And one Captain *Smith* also gives Cal-
 " culations of the planting of one thousand Acres of
 " Ground, which in three Years will produce very large
 " Sums, which also is mentioned by Mr. *Evelyn*. And
 " that a certain noble Lord having sown three or four
 " Acres

“ Acres with Acorns, the fourth Year transplanted them,
 “ which grew too thick all about his Lordship. These
 “ Trees in about forty Years were of that Stature, and
 “ so likely to prove excellent Timber, that they were
 “ judged to be almost as much worth as the whole De-
 “ mesnes; and yet they took off little from other Profits,
 “ having been discretely disposed of at their first Design-
 “ ment.”

This being made out, let us consider what an immense
 Sum great Trees would amount to in a large Quantity of
 Land planted by every Parish throughout the Kingdom
 where there is waste Land. It is computed there are near
 ten thousand Parishes in *England* alone, and suppose
 Parishes one with another should be able to raise a Plan-
 tation worth only one thousand Pounds, which would be
 no difficult Matter from a Number of Trees in forty or
 fifty Years, the Nation would thereby be enriched ten
 Millions *Sterling*, besides the Value of the Mast or Fruit;
 and this Stock is capable of being renewed from time to
 time as it shall be lessened by Fellings, and even increased
 to such a Degree as shall be thought proper. And with
 respect to the Place of planting it has been observed, that
 “ even in the most craggy, uneven, cold, and exposed
 “ Places, not fit for arable, and even in our very Peak of
 “ *Derbyshire*, and other rocky Places, Ashes grow about
 “ every Village; and we find that Oak, Beech, Elm,
 “ Walnut-

"Walnut-tree, Ash, and Fir, will prosper in the most flinty Soils."

So far at least it will be beyond all Contradiction necessary to extend these Parochial Plantations, as to supply all our Wants at Home, and thereby stop up a Drain upon this Nation, by which very considerable Sums are every Year carried out for the Purchase of Timber and Iron in Foreign Countries, exclusive of our own Colonies, which we rightly consider and treat in the second Degree as a Part of *Britain* itself. For with respect to Iron, we have for the sake of preserving our Woods, by the Acts of Parliament before stated, excluded the making of it, in effect, from a considerable Part of the Kingdom; and the Scarcity and Dearthness of our Woods are likely in a few Years to endanger the rest, although it is a most useful and necessary Manufacture, and next in point of Importance to our Woollen. For it is to be observed, that by endless Experiments it has been found, that the Iron Stone or Oar can be melted into a fluid Substance for the Purpose of making Iron by Charcoal only, and that it cannot be done by Pit or Sea Coal (which is also the Case of Refiners) for which reason the Owners of Underwoods in that Part of the Kingdom where Furnaces are allowed to work are so commendably exact and careful, that when a Sale is made of part of the Underwoods for making Charcoal, it is become a common Clause in the Contract, that the

Horfes employed to bring the Charcoal out of the Woods shall be muzzled, to prevent their cropping the young Shoots ; and as our Plantations shall thrive and increafe, we may without Danger repeal all our prohibitory Laws relating to our Timber, Underwoods, and Iron Furnaces, fo that every Land Owner may be at liberty to make the moft of his Eftate in the Way he thinks beft for himfelf and Family ; and as we have infinite Quantities of Iron Oar in different Parts of the Kingdom, we may be enabled by Trials of Oar in every part to equal Foreign Iron for the making of Steel, which we cannot now do, and which may poffibly be owing to the Reftraints and Embarrasments particular Counties are laid under with refpect to making Iron, as before is mentioned. For as the Laws now ftand, if a Country Gentleman within the prefcribed Limits fhould difcover an Iron Mine of an Oar ever fo valuable, he can make no ufe of it, which may be the Reason for fending Iron Oar from *Lancashire* into *Suffex*, for a Mixture, as has been often done for Trials to attain the making Steel, an Improvement of great Confequence to this Kingdom. And confidering what different Channels the Courfe of Trade and Manufactures has taken in our own and other Countries, by new Improvements, Discoveries, and Difpofitions, our Government will act the Part of the good Phyfician as they have hitherto done, whole proper Bufinefs it is to watch the Courfe Nature herfelf

herself takes, and then gently to lead her on as her Handmaid.

The most sagacious Man cannot pretend to say what may at some time hereafter happen upon the Continent ; and as we are both King and Country to a Man determined to use our utmost Efforts for extending the Term of our Freedom to the End of Time, it essentially concerns us to improve every natural Advantage our Islands afford us to its greatest Degree of Perfection, especially in the Instances of those Materials upon which our Navy and Shipping, our Trade and Manufactures do immediately depend, that as far as is possible we may be rendered independent of Foreign Nations.

“ Fruit Trees might also be raised in like manner, with
 “ respect to which the same Author asserts we shall find,
 “ that four Fruit Trees in each Acre throughout *England*,
 “ the Product sold but at Six-pence the Bushel, will be
 “ worth a Million yearly. What then may be reasonably
 “ judged of Timber ? which according to the lowest Cal-
 “ culation that can be estimated he computes will amount
 “ to a very large Sum yearly, if, as he supposed, there
 “ may be five or six and twenty Millions of square Acres
 “ in the Kingdom (besides Fens, Highways, Rivers, &c.
 “ not counted) and without reckoning in the Mast and Lop-
 “ pings, which whoever will calculate from the annual Re-
 “ venue of the Mast only the poor Country of *Westphalia*
 “ did

“ did use yield to that Prince, will conclude to be a very
 “ considerable Improvement ; for in that barren Territory
 “ every Farmer does by antient Custom plant so many
 “ Oaks about his Farm as may suffice to feed his Swine.
 “ In like manner the Princes and Freedoms of *Hesse*,
 “ *Saxony*, and *Thuringia*, and divers other Places there,
 “ make vast Incomes of their Forest Fruit (besides the
 “ Timber) for Swine only.” This only is mentioned by
 way of Specimen, to shew what the Planting of the waste
 Grounds throughout the Kingdom may produce and
 amount to.

Suppose, for Instance, in a Course of Time one hun-
 dred Swine were raised and fatted in every Parish more
 than now are by means of the Forest Fruit, a proper Pro-
 portion of which might be gathered and housed to serve a
 great Part of the Year ; and rating the Swine at the mo-
 derate Price of thirty Shillings each, the amount will be
 a Million and a half *Sterling* a Year, which is more than
 the annual national Expence of the Poor, and this with-
 out the Trouble and Expence of repeated Cultivations.
 And Lords of Manors will rather promote than oppose
 this Scheme, as a great Number of Mast-bearing Trees
 will certainly, if it take, be planted ; and they and their
 Tenants will have the Benefit of the Mast, which will be
 very considerable. Besides it cannot be supposed, that
 they have any Objection to so noble and useful a public

Charity, and of such a capital Advantage to the Kingdom, more especially as by this means their own Estates will be improved by being discharged from Payments to the Poor, and consequently let at higher Rents. And if upon Consideration of the Matter it should be thought reasonable to allow Lords of Manors a Proportion of the Timber, that Proportion may easily be settled in Parliament, and by this means their Property will receive a very considerable and an immediate Addition every Year increasing, their Posterity will be greatly enriched, and probably their Estates preserved without any Expence or Disadvantage to their Ancestors.

There will be no Danger of these Plantations being injured by the common People, the Portion of the Poor being always held sacred amongst them, which makes this particular Method of planting preferable to every other of a public Nature. For most likely if it were not the Cause of the Poor and the Parish, we should have the like Practices again as have heretofore been frequently experienced in our own Country, where Gentlemen have been Planters; and as was the Case in *France* in the Reign of *Harry* the Fourth, during the Superintendency of the Duke *de Sully*, where when there was a Resolution of adorning all the Highways with Elms, the rude and mischievous Peasants did so hack, steal, and destroy what they had begun, that they were forced to desist from the

Prosecution

Prosecution of the Design, so as there is nothing more exposed, wild, and unpleasant, than the common Roads of *France* for want of these entertaining Plantations, which, as my Lord *Bacon* observed, might have their political Use as well as those Statues and Monuments of such brave Men as had deserved well of the Public, which were erected by the *Romans* even in their Highways ; as such useful and agreeable Objects would exceedingly divert and take off the Minds and Discourses of melancholy People, who having nothing in their Journies but the dull and barren Ways to cast their Eyes upon, are but ill Conversation to each other, and are led, instead of celebrating, to censure their Superiors. How would the Road be enlivened by Travellers pointing as they pass along, and observing how charitably disposed is the Heart of my Lord in making yonder Plantation for the Benefit of the Poor ! How much has Sir *John's* thriven since the last time we came this Way ! What excellent Husbands have these Parishes been in raising such a Number of fine Trees, and how deservedly to be commended for their Industry ! What vast Improvements have been made in our Country ! What a blessed Alteration is here ! How is one Village linked to another with Rows of Oak, Walnut-tree, and Chesnut ! What a vast supply of Food is here for Swine and other Beasts ! What a Face of Plenty ! With other such like Discourses.

Suppose the Bill for taxing Dogs were to pass into a Law, and the Money applied in ease of the Poor Tax, and for their Encouragement; upon this very Occasion it might strengthen the Hands of Parishes in prosecuting so useful a Work, and by putting some Money in their Pockets, set their Minds a thinking upon these Improvements, and turn their Thoughts from destroying the Game, to something of more Consequence to themselves and Families.

Let us set before our Eyes the great Improvements of Land made by the Protestant Working Schools in *Ireland*; and why may we not reasonably expect Donations of Money and Land from our own People (who are so generous as to send their Contributions thither) for the Encouragement of this commendable Attempt, for the Sake of our own Poor and their Children, who stand in the utmost Need of our benevolent Regards. And if this Method of Planting should not employ the Poor their whole Time, the rest of their Labour may be other ways beneficially applied, especially when by the Growth and Sale of part of their Plantations, Money may be raised as a Stock for their Employment, their Sons may be placed with proper Masters, and their Daughters at a suitable Age portioned out in Marriage. And as their Riches increase, Parishes might be enabled under proper Regulations to assist poor laborious Men, having large Families, with Money to enable them to follow their Calling, and by this means

preserve

preserve unbroken that Spirit which will undergo infinite Hardships rather than submit itself to become a Burthen upon the Parish for a Maintenance: and this, as the most useful and truest Species of Charity, it is hoped will be strictly attended to by every one.

This Scheme will supply sufficient Fuel for Firing, and prevent the Woods and Fences throughout the Kingdom from being damaged and destroyed, and keep the Price of Coals at reasonable Rates, even supposing our Mines are inexhaustible, and thereby prevent the Variety of Manufacturers, who are the principal Consumers thereof, from raising their Prices to the general Hurt of our Foreign Trade. But upon a Supposition of their being exhaustible, what doubt can remain as to the Necessity of these Plantations? and even the Colliers themselves, who have occasion for great Quantities of Timber for their Works in the Mines, will be furnished at their own Homes at more reasonable Prices, and not be under the Necessity, as *Newcastle* now is, of having recourse to the Western Counties, even the inland County of *Surry*, for Timber, on account of Cheapness; which naturally leads to take notice of a modern Species of Destruction that has been followed about five or six Years in the New Forest, where the *Newcastle* Colliers send their Orders to buy the large Topps and Loppings of the Beech (formerly sold for Firing) to make Truck Wheels for their Carriages, which being in
separate

separate Pieces, fifteen or twenty Pins are necessary to put them together, for the making of which Pins there are a set of Villains who in the Night cut down young Oaken Heirs (properly so called there) from eight to fifteen Years Growth, and by this means destroy an infinite Number of fine thriving young Trees. From whence may be inferred the Expediency of Parochial Plantations, where if a single Mischief of this kind should befall their young Trees, the whole Parish would take the Alarm, like a Hive of Bees disturbed, and such Inquiries would be instantly made, that the Offenders would find it difficult to escape, and if they did, would never run the Hazard of a second Attempt.

This will in time put a stop to the sending of Money out of the Nation for almost any kind of Timber, and which is now done to a great amount daily, and is increasing. Even Oak Timber and Plank, for the Use of our Shipping, is imported from Foreign Countries, and it is said we cannot do without it. But by Planting so many Parts of the Surface of our Island, and particularly attending thereto, it is very probable that by means of the different Soils, Climates, Aspects, and Situations, and the Variety of Species of Trees which will be planted, and by peculiar Methods of Cultivation, we may grow almost all kinds of Timber and Wood necessary for our Occasions, and which before we did not apprehend our Country capable of producing.

Other Nations are improving their Lands and Timber, and let us endeavour to outstrip them in this and other Regulations, and we shall not in the least be affected by their prohibiting the Exportation of their Timber which has been begun. *British* Fir Timber may answer the Purpose of the Foreign, and we shall soon in our Turn prohibit the Importation.

This Scheme will not only enable us to subsist our own Poor, but also take away every Shadow of Objection to the Naturalization Bill as proposed, and consequently make this Island the richest, most powerful, and most delightful Spot upon Earth. What a most glorious Prospect will it afford! What Pleasure will it give even in this present Age to every one of us, to see these Plantations in all our waste Grounds in every Parish in the Kingdom rising every Year, and flourishing before our Eyes!

*Nature shall join us, Time will make it grow,
A Work to wonder at.*

POPE.

Bounded as we are by the Sea, defended by our Wooden Walls continually repaired by plentiful Supplies of Men and Materials from within, and unincumbred with Poor; for the Produce of this Island, if not now, is capable of being increased, to maintain ten times the Number of the present Inhabitants; for two Acres of Wheat will find a Family

Family in Bread, and two Hogs in Flesh throughout the Year. And notwithstanding the Bounty, as the Price of Corn is too low, and like to continue, for the Farmers to support their Families, and pay their Rents ; and as there is always a Sufficiency, is it not clearly more for the general Interest rather to give a Bounty for the importing Inhabitants into our Island to eat our Corn here, and follow some Employment, and upon Occasion help to supply our Navies, Armies, and Colonies, than to continue this Bounty, attended with great Frauds upon the Revenue, and towards the Expence of which our own Manufacturers themselves greatly contribute ? And to what purpose, but that the Foreign Manufacturer may eat his Bread cheaper than otherwise he would do, or possibly even than our own ?

Let us with Alacrity follow the commendable Example of the *Swedish* Nation in their present Disposition, by minding our internal Affairs a little more, which in this respect has been too much neglected, and yet is of the last Consequence to us. By the Success of which we shall be enabled, when sound Policy requires, to defend our own Territories, and to interfere with greatly more Power and Efficacy than at present in the general Affairs of *Europe*. Our Navy and Merchant Ships will be afforded to be built at an easier Expence, which is now very much increased to what it was some Years ago, on account of the Rise of Oak Timber, which is almost doubled. And the Price of
Bark

Bark is within these thirty Years increased from six to ten Pounds the Load, which has raised the Price, and incumbered the Exportation of the valuable Leather Manufacture. And what is worst of all, the Tanners are in general under the strongest Apprehensions of there not being a sufficient annual Fall of Oak to supply the necessary Quantity for the Consumption of the current Year; and that we must be compelled to permit the Importation of Bark from Foreign Countries, Duty free, as a raw Material, to the Prejudice of our own Country, before these Plantations can furnish it, is much to be feared. Deals are doubled in Price within Memory, and the Reason alledged is, that they are obliged to go higher up the Country to fell it, which shews, that even in Foreign Countries their Woods are lessening. Pipe Staves imported from Abroad, our own Alders for making Coal for Gunpowder are proportionably dearer, and a great Number of other Manufactures depending upon Wood and Timber are cramped and underfold by Foreigners at Markets Abroad, by reason of the double Disadvantage of the Dearness of Wood and Labour. Sawing Mills also may be soon allowed, when by cutting and converting of the Timber and Wood of our own Growth, an additional Number of Hands will be employed, and our Foreign Trade in general will be more extended, as well as our Domestic. Our thinly inhabited and poorly frequented Market Towns, our paltry strag-

ling Villages, and widely extended desolate Country, through which the weary Passenger in some Places may travel for Miles without seeing an House, and hardly an human Creature, will be replenished with Inhabitants, all Intent upon supporting and increasing the public Plantations, on which their Hopes depend for a comfortable Subsistence, if they, their Children, or Families should come to want, and in a much better Manner than our poor wretched helpless Fellow-Creatures are at present supported by Parish Contributions, wrung from them unwillingly, and in such small Pittances as scarce suffices to keep the Lamp of Life faintly burning.

As therefore through public Inattention the raising and preserving Timber Trees has been neglected, and as the Families of the Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy of these Kingdoms, seduced by the all-powerful Calls of Luxury, are decoyed to live in the Capital, or in Foreign Countries, to the Ruin of their Estates, and the general Impoverishment of the Public; let it be the ardent Wish and Endeavour of every Lover of his Country, that a Regulation and Establishment with respect to Parish Plantations for the Benefit of the Poor, and, when they are taken care of, for other public Uses, may take effect. We have a King who may, with the highest Justice, be called the Father of his People, the most glorious of all Titles; and our Parliaments in general have made the Parish Poor for some

time past their particular Study and Attention. Particular Persons well-disposed may themselves make Plantations at an easy Expence for their Benefit, and which they will have the Satisfaction to see growing every Year to greater Degrees of Maturity; and this will bid fair to be of general Example, as the Expence is little, the Action exceedingly praise-worthy, and as in itself it is a better kind of Charity than building of Alms Houses, or Charity Schools, as they are used in *England*, where Children should for their own Sakes, as well as the Public, very early be trained up and inured to Labour, that they may never depart from it, which is not done. With respect to Parishes in Cities and great Towns, and others who have no waste Lands, it will be easy for them to procure such Quantities of Ground for Nurseries and Plantations as will answer the Purposes here proposed in the several Forests, Chaces, and Parts throughout the Kingdom, let them plant Avenues leading to their Gates, and surround their Buildings with Groves.

The Reduction of the Funds, which seems to go on prosperously, and consequently the low Value of Money, will induce Persons to reside in the Country, which by this means will be more invitingly pleasant. It has been said, that if *Inigo Jones* had built the Royal Palace at *Whitehall* according to his Plan, that the Nation would have been long before now repaid their Expence by the

Money laid out here by Foreigners, who, it is supposed, would have come over to have seen it. And will not these Works of Nature, assisted by Art, be more in the grand Gusto, and more exciting Curiosity, than any public Buildings in *Europe*, with this Difference, that one is growing every Year nearer to decay, and the other to greater Beauty and Perfection.

The late Lord *Molesworth* in his excellent Account of *Denmark*, published in the Year 1694, speaking of *Norway*, says, that there are Silver Mines in it, and whether the working of them turns to account is a Question ; but that the Commodities which it yields for Exportation are Timber of all kinds, especially Fir (the Exportation of Oak Timber being forbidden) Stock Fish, Masts for Ships, and Iron, of these it has a tolerable Store, most of which the *English* and *Dutch* purchase yearly with ready Money. In another place he takes notice, that a Duty is imposed upon the Timber exported out of the Country, which deserves notice.

But eminently amongst others in these Plantations, the Mulberry Tree may be raised and propagated, of which it has been said, that it suffers no kind of Vermin to breed upon it, nor dares any Caterpillar attack it, save the Silkworm only. And here I am led again to transcribe the ever memorable Mr. *Evelyn*, who asserts, that, “ so great
“ is the benefit of the Leaf, that the Mulberry Trees are
“ let to Farm for vast Sums, so as one Tree has yielded
“ the

“ the Proprietor a Rent of twenty Shillings a Year for the
 “ Leaves only, and six or seven Pounds of Silk, worth as
 “ many Pounds Sterling in five or six Weeks to those who
 “ keep the Worms. We know, says he, that till after *Italy*
 “ had made Silk above a thousand Years, they received it
 “ not in *France*, it being then hardly one hundred Years
 “ since they betook themselves to this Manufacture in
 “ *Provence, Languedoc, Dauphine, Lionnois, &c.* and not
 “ in *Tourain* and *Orleans*, till *Henry* the Fourth’s Time;
 “ but it is incredible what a Revenue it amounts to in that
 “ Kingdom. About the same time, or a little after, it was
 “ that King *James* did recommend it to this Nation, but
 “ this did not take no more than *Henry* the Fourth’s Pro-
 “ posal about the Environs of *Paris*, who filled the High-
 “ ways, Parks, and Gardens of *France* with the Trees,
 “ beginning in his own Gardens for Encouragement; yet
 “ this could not be brought into Example till *Louis* the
 “ Fourteenth by the indefatigable Diligence of Monsieur
 “ *Colbert*, who so successfully revived it, that it is pro-
 “ digious to consider what a happy Progress they have
 “ made in it, to our shame be it spoken, who have no
 “ other Discouragements from any insuperable Difficulty
 “ whatever, but our Sloth and want of Industry; since
 “ wherever these Trees will grow and prosper, the Silk-
 “ worms will thrive also. And they were alike averse from
 “ the very same Suggestions where now that Manufacture
 “ flourishes

“ flourishes in our neighbour Countries. It is demonstrable
 “ that Mulberry Trees in a few Years, may be made to
 “ spread all over the Land ; and when the indigent and
 “ young Daughters in proud Families are as willing to
 “ gain three or four Shillings a Day for gathering Silk,
 “ and busying themselves in this sweet and easy Employment
 “ as some do to get four Pence a Day for hard Work, at
 “ Hemp, Flax, and Wool, the Reputation of Mulberry
 “ Trees would spread in *England* and other Plantations.
 “ He then concludes, that he has no more to add than to
 “ encounter the Objections which may be suggested about
 “ the Coldness and Moisture of our Country ; that the
 “ Spring is in *Provence* no less inconstant than ours in
 “ *England* ; that the Colds in *Paris* are altogether as
 “ sharp, and that when in *May* it has continued raining
 “ for twenty-nine Days successively, Monsieur *Isnard*
 “ the Surveyor, employed by *Colbert*, assures us, he pro-
 “ ceeded in his Work without the least Disaster ; and in
 “ the Year 1664 he presented the *French King* his Mas-
 “ ter with a considerable Quantity of better Silks, than
 “ *Messina* or *Boulonia* could produce, which he sold raw
 “ at *Lions* for a Pistole the Pound, when that of *Avig-*
 “ *nion*, *Provence*, and *Dauphine* produced little above
 “ half that Price.”

And here it may be observed, that our Situation as an
 Island, defended by a maritime Strength, gives us the Ad-
 vantage

vantage of other Countries, who, by being upon a Continent, are more easily liable to be invaded by a contiguous Enemy, and consequently are in greater danger of having their Mulberry Trees destroyed, as Experience has shewn, and which will be the Work of half a Century to raise again; and this Observation may be extended to the Plantations in general as proposed.

To this general Scheme it may be objected, that the Value of Timber will be lowered by this means, and that the Owners of timbered Estates here will never come into it. By way of Answer to which the following Matters must be considered.

First, That public Utility ought to be preferred to private Interest, especially in so fundamental a Point; for these Plantations are to be considered as yielding Timber seventy Years hence only, when otherwise both Foreign and Domestic Timber may very probably be got so scarce as to make such a Supply absolutely necessary to our well being as a maritime Power, and a trading Nation, and the intermediate Steps to be taken for that Purpose, in the mean time, in the highest Degree prudential; for Timber cannot be raised like Money upon a sudden Emergency, not even upon Government Security, and it will be to the last Degree impolitic in this Case to trust to Foreigners.

Secondly, Every Man's Estate will be benefited, as by the Felling and Sale of the Tree the Burthen of the Poor will

will be taken off, and the Money stopped from going out of the Kingdom, Foreigners invited to come and live amongst us, and our Trade and Navigation enlarged.

Thirdly, Every Acre of Land in this Island ought to be carried to the highest Degree of Improvement it is capable of, so that it be gradually done; and this is the only way to improve our waste Lands to any Purpose, unless we were to plow and sow those Lands, to which there are many unanswerable Objections.

Fourthly, It may be made appear by easy Calculations, that Gentlemen and their Tenants, who in point of Interest are one, pay very dear for the Timber growing in the Inclosures, by the Damage done to the Corn and Underwood before the Trees get to their full Growth, as well by the Shade and dripping of the Branches, as by the Roots, which extend beyond the Boughs; and that if in Consequence of these Plantations, the Timber should in a long course of Years get into the Wastes, it will then be in its proper Place, and the cultivated inclosed Grounds will yield more Rent to the Owners, and greater Plenty to the Public. Besides, it should be observed, that Trees growing in Hedge-rows are more exposed to violent Winds, and the Extremity of the Weather, than those planted in Groves, and consequently will not thrive so well; more particularly in the several parts of this Island near the Sea-coasts. But it will be time enough to make these Objections, when
the

the Increase of *British* Timber is so great as to put a Stop to the Importation of Foreign, and the sending so much Money out of the Nation for the Purchase of it as is now done ; and, in reality, the Danger is on the other Side, and the general Apprehensions are but too well grounded that there will be a Want of Timber, not that we shall be overstocked with it. And for the Truth of this we may appeal to the Variety of Trades depending upon the Manufacture of Wood, and the Value of Underwoods is also raised, on account of the many thousand Acres which have been grubbed up notwithstanding the Act of Parliament.

There are upwards of two thousand Acres of waste Lands in a County adjoining to *London*, which within little more than a Century past, had such Quantities of Oak Timber upon it that a Man could for a Mile or two pass sheltered under the Trees from Bough to Bough ; and in the Leases of Lands held of the Manor are ascertained the Number of Loads of Wood which the Tenants were intitled to ; and through the Havock and Waste that has been, and is continually committed, there is not now a single Load of Wood to be got, nor a Stick of two Inches Diameter, although the Land is so naturally disposed for growing of Oak that an Inclosure alone, without any Plantations, would make a great Part of it a continued Wood in twenty or thirty Years. And it is well known,

that the Chesnut Tree was used for building Houses in the City of *London* itself before the Fire, which probably grew upon the neighbouring Wastes ; and where have we any of that kind now growing ?

It is impossible for the most knowing Man, or the best Calculator, to take upon him with any kind of Certainty or Probability, as Matters are going on, to assert upon good Foundation, that in twenty Years there will not be a visible Want of Timber through the Nation ; for if we may judge from Experience of what has happened, the only sure Way of judging, the Probability is against him, especially as the Nation is now reduced to the terrible Dilemma of being obliged either to suffer the Importation of Timber and Wood as a raw Material for many necessary Uses, or to let our Business and Workmen stand still for want of a Supply at Home.

It also may be objected, that the Trees will spoil the Herbage of the Waste, lessen the Number of our Sheep, and injure the Rights of Common of the Tenants. In answer to which it must be attended to, that our waste Lands are at present too exposed and naked for the Cattle, and that these Plantations will make them warmer in Winter, and cooler in Summer, which are material Circumstances ; that the Inclosures will also reap the Benefit of the Shelter without sustaining the Damage ; that the Grass upon the Commons will also be of a forwarder Growth in the Spring, as

we

we find in Orchards, and greatly more valuable than the After Growth, as thereby many Cattle and Sheep may be preserved when the Fodder for Winter is spent before its Time, which is a very usual Case with Farmers in a backward Spring. And every one knows, that generally speaking there is less Subsistence for Cattle and Sheep in the Months of *April* and *May* upon the Wastes, than there is at *Christmas*.

It ought also to be considered, that so great Improvements have of late Years been made here in *England* by growing artificial Grasses as to lessen the Value of Meadow Land, and consequently all Grass Land; and this is increasing every Year more and more in different Counties to such a Degree, that judicious Farmers in many Places are of Opinion, that through the Loss of Time taken up in going after their Cattle when upon the Common, the Hazard of their being stolen or straying away, and by the Loss of their Dung and Stale, that the little Advantage got by the Herbage is hardly a Compensation.

Besides, by these Plantations the Ground itself will be fertilized in a Course of Years, either for Corn or Pasture, as is without Exception the Case of Wood Lands, occasioned by the Shelter and Fall of the Leaves; so that if ever there should be danger of a Scarcity of Corn or Cattle in *England* after the Timber is felled, the Roots will very near pay the Expence of grubbing, and the Lands will be in a

State of Fertility for many Years after. The Number of Sheep will not be lessened by reason of the Increase of Extent of the Inclosures. Besides it is known, that before Turneps were planted in Fields, which is now about four-score Years, the Husbandmen in *England* used in Winter to fat their Sheep with Peas, and even now use that Method when their Turneps, which are a very uncertain Crop, fail, either by too dry a Summer, or by rotting in the Winter ; and if not Acorns, why might not Chestnuts and other Forest Fruit be brought to be in part the Winter Food for Sheep, as well as of Swine and Deer ?

As to the injuring the Rights of Common of Tenants, to what has been before mentioned may be added, that the waste Ground in *England* is in many Places over-run with Heath, Furze, Fern, Bushes, &c. and that the Time of a poor Family, which for their own and the public Benefit might be more usefully employed, is frequently taken up in running after a poor Cow, a few straggling half-starved rotten Sheep, with little Wool upon their Backs, and a ragged Colt or two upon the Common, many of which stray from one Common to another without Owners ; insomuch that through the Neglect of Lords of Manors in not driving their Commons, there are frequently wild Horses and Mares of a small Height, twenty or thirty Years old, and which never did a Day's Work.

It

It also may be said, that many of our Wastes will not bear Timber from the Poverty of the Ground, and the Coldness of the Situation. Answer. Try, it will cost nothing of any account ; some Trees will certainly flourish, if properly adapted to the Soil ; but this is an irrefragable Argument for planting those Wastes where Oak Timber we know will grow, which is generally upon low, wet, clayey Commons where Sheep will rot. And as to their Exposure to the Cold, every one knows that when a Number of Trees come to be planted, it will be the same as it is with Hops, the outside Trees will keep off the cold Winds, and therefore the larger the Plantation the better ; and with regard to the Poverty of the Ground, as it is generally of the same Nature with the adjoining Inclosures, no good Reason can be alledged why it should not bear Timber as well.

It may also be objected, that the Importation of Foreign Timber employs our Shipping ; but it may be answered, that this Trade is carried on to such a Disadvantage as not to admit of bartering our own Produce in return ; and although it does furnish some Employment for a small Part of our Shipping, yet sure that alone will not be a sufficient Reason for sending out Ships with ready Money to bring back a Commodity our own Island might produce. Besides, Foreigners may, and possibly will exact higher Prices and Duties upon the Exportation of their Timber

as it grows scarcer, as they know we must have it, and pay the Price they think fit to ask.

How necessary therefore is it, that a proper Part of our Wastes should be planted under the Care and Inspection of Parishes, who having themselves a principal Concern and Interest in the Advantage from thence arising, might be in the Nature of public Conservators of the Timber of *Britain*; and as they are a Corporation having a Succession, to some Purposes, that Capacity might be extended to these Plantations; and Experience would make them perfect and expert in the Art of raising and managing Forest Trees to the best Advantage; and we should soon be entertained with a Prospect of a taller, straighter, sounder, and larger bodied Timber, and even more Plenty of crooked and knee Timber so much wanted, made so by Art, than the Nation in general hath ever produced. For the Timber Tree whilst young, is not only capable of being bent as the Planter pleases, and of growing in that Inclination, but may be very much improved by a proper pruning skillfully performed, as well as the Fruit Tree; for as *Lawson*, an old judicious Writer, in his *Orchard*, Chapter the Eleventh, observes, “ All Ages, by Rules and Experience, do consent to a pruning and lopping of Trees, “ yet have not any that I know described unto us, except in dark and general Words, what or which are “ those superfluous Boughs which we must take away, “ and

“ and that is the most chief and most needful Point to
 “ be known in lopping. And we may well assure our-
 “ selves, as in all Arts so in this, there is a Vantage and
 “ Dexterity by Skill, an Habit by Practice, out of Expe-
 “ rience, in the Performance hereof for the Profit of Man-
 “ kind. Yet do I not know, let me speak it with Patience
 “ of our cunning Arborists, any thing within the Compass
 “ of human Affairs so necessary and so little regarded,
 “ not only in Orchards, but also in all Timber Trees.
 “ How many Forests and Woods are there wherein you
 “ shall have for one lively thriving Tree, four, nay some-
 “ times twenty-four evil thriving, rotten, and dying Trees !
 “ What Rottenness ! what Hollowness ! what dead Arms,
 “ withered Tops, curtailed Trunks ! what Loads of Moss
 “ Drooping Boughs and dying Branches shall you see every
 “ where ! what unprofitable and cankered Arms, crook-
 “ ed, little, and short Boals ! Consider now the Case.
 “ The greater Trees, at their first rising, have filled and
 “ over-laden themselves with a Number of wasteful Boughs
 “ and Suckers, which have not only drawn the Sap from
 “ the Boal, but also have made it knotty, and them-
 “ selves and the Boal mossy for want of dressing :
 “ whereas if in the Prime of Growth they had been taken
 “ away close all but one Top, and clean by the Bulk, the
 “ Strength of all the Sap would have gone to the Bulk,
 “ and so he would have recovered and covered his Knots,
 “ and

“and have put forth a fair, long, and strait Body for
 “Timber, profitable, huge, great of Bulk, and of in-
 “finite last.

“If all Timber Trees were such, will some say, how
 “should we have crooked Wood for Wheels, Coorbs, &c.
 “Answer. Dress all you can, and there will be enough
 “crooked for those Uses.

“More than this, in most Places they grow so thick
 “that neither themselves, nor Earth, nor any thing under
 “or near them can thrive; nor Sun, nor Rain, nor Air
 “can yield them, nor any thing near nor under them,
 “any Profit or Comfort; but if well and cleanly pruned
 “all to his very Top, what a Tree should we have in due
 “time? What a Commodity would arise to the Owner
 “and Commonwealth, if Wood were thus cherished and
 “orderly dressed?”

To this Purpose also *Moses Cooke*, Gardener to the Earl
 of *Essex*, in the Preface to his Book, intituled, *The Man-
 ner of raising, ordering, and improving Forest Trees*, pub-
 lished in the Year 1675, and dedicated to his Master the
 then Earl of *Essex*; after speaking of Planting, and the
 “Rules by him laid down, which he declared had been
 “approved of by several noble and ingenious Men, and
 “which were as faithfully delivered as they were really
 “intended for the Good of the Nation, and that all those
 “that would put them in Practice, would employ their

“ Time so well that they would never have Cause to say
 “ it was ill spent ; and that if once they did but make
 “ one Step forward, and see but any Success of their La-
 “ bours, they would need no Logician’s Arguments nor
 “ Rhetorician’s Eloquence to persuade them to proceed ;
 “ and after mentioning that he always took Notes of what
 “ he did set or sow, the Time, and on what Ground, &c.
 “ and when it proved well that he noted it so, but when
 “ ill that he did endeavour as much as he could to know
 “ the Reason, which when once he had found he noted it
 “ well, and that he always was very wary of taking things
 “ upon trust from any Man without he had sufficient Ex-
 “ perience for it.”

He concludes in these Words, “ I have here shewed
 “ some Rules how to prune Forest Trees, which when
 “ well done adds much to their Shape, Growth, and
 “ long Life, and that every one who make any Observation
 “ of Trees seeth this Truth confirmed in their Shape,
 “ and that though many are against pruning Forest Trees,
 “ yet it adds much to their Growth, and if done by a
 “ skilful Hand, and at fit Times, it adds much to the
 “ Goodness of the Timber, though several (it is possible)
 “ will tell you the contrary, for it is he that takes things
 “ on trust that is Truth’s greatest Opposer ; but to con-
 “ firm their Growth by Pruning, take this Example : There
 “ grew a young Oak near the Orange House at *Cashberry*,

“ about nine Inches diameter, with many young Boughs
 “ on the Sides, which robbed the Head so much, that it
 “ did shoot but little, having more Boughs than the Roots
 “ could well maintain; I took off the side Boughs in the
 “ Year 1669, and in the Year 1675 my Lord ordered
 “ me to fell it, it standing too near a Walk we had made.
 “ My Lord being at *Cashioberry*, and discoursing of prun-
 “ ing Forest Trees with the ingenious Artists Sir *Samuel Morland* and *Hugh May*, Esq; I shewed them
 “ the Truth confirmed in this Tree; for that Year it was
 “ pruned, it grew near as much as in five Years before,
 “ and that it continued that Growth very near for the six
 “ Years after, as did plainly appear by annual Circles to them
 “ and me.” And Mr. *Evelyn*’s Opinion is the same, and
 confirms both the foregoing with the clearest Reasons; but
 this is a work only to be performed whilst the Tree is young.

There is another Method which will answer the same Purpose, which the Writer hereof hath made frequent use of, and with Success, that is, by rubbing off the young Buds from the sides of the Trees at the Spring of the Year before they shoot out, and this being repeated two or three times, you thereby prevent any collateral Branches growing upon the Tree within the proposed length, and the whole Sap drawn from the Roots being thus confined to the Boal, the Tree grows faster and straiter, and less knotty, and consequently sounder. But as affairs now stand, the Timber

in the Country in general is left to itself and the Tenants, so that by Boughs rotting off of themselves, and their lopping and cutting off large Branches, rotten Knots are made in the Body, which being grown over, the Buyer to his Cost only discovers when the Tree is hew'd and sawn out for Market; and the Scarcity and Dearness of Timber making all sorts marketable, especially in War Time, there is but too much foundation to apprehend that our Ships in general are not so strongly built as formerly they were.

That good and publick spirited Man and accurate Philosopher Dr. *Hales*, has by his valuable Discoveries relating to the Rise of Sap in Vegetables, laid a Foundation for very great Improvements in this way; and having clearly shewn that the motion of the Sap bears a proportion to the number of Branches and Leaves upon the Trees, we may infer, that after the Boal of the Timber Tree is properly freed from Branches to the length required, that we should not lop off the remaining Boughs, as by that means we impeded the progress of the Sap up the Body.

This Nation has been alarmed indeed with apprehensions of a scarcity of Timber in it for our publick and private Uses, which not having been yet sufficiently perceived and felt, in a great measure through insensibility, we have been lulled into a fatal Security; but the Danger being now real and imminent, it is high time to bestir ourselves, otherwise we may delay it too long, like the Shepherds in

the Fable, who having had false Alarms that the Wolves were coming, and finding themselves deceived, at last when the Wolves did come, and the Boy set up his Cry in good earnest, the Shepherds minded it not, and their Sheep were devoured.

Let us not put off this important Work ; if we begin, late as it is, we may by our Diligence and Expertness make amends for the time we have lost ; it is never too late to do well, but if we neglect the present time and continue on in the same thoughtless track, Necessity will come upon us like an armed Man, and our Posterity, if not we ourselves, may be tormented with one of the most melancholy Reflections of an afflicted Heart, that it was once in our Power effectually to have prevented any want of Timber in our Country, by beginning a national Plantation in due time. Let us lay hold of this Opportunity to distinguish the present Reign and Age, and to transmit it amongst the brightest and most glorious in our Annals to latest Posterity. For as Dr. *Sprat* finely observes, the wise Antients allowed a higher degree of Reputation, and paid diviner Honours to the Inventors of useful Arts, than to the Teachers of speculative Doctrines, or even Conquerors themselves.

Amongst other Advantages it is none of the least that this Improvement will have the same publick Effect it has in the case of private Gentlemen ; it will give an immediate weight and credit to the Nation, and let our own People
and

and Foreigners be convinced in the most evident manner, that there is a Spirit stirring in our Government and Nation, that sincerely means publick Good, discharged of private interested Views. Slaves have no Heart or Spirit to go about such a Work, Free-born *Britons* have.

It also may be objected, that Parish Business is managed ill, and that this will probably be the Fate of the proposed Regulation should it be entered upon.

In answer to which it may be observed, there is very often Clamour against their Proceedings without proper Foundation.

That in the Country Parishes Fraud does not prevail near so much as is imagined; every Parishoner knows what the Poor Book amounts to, and what the proper Expences are, upon looking into the Parish Accounts; and the frugal Farmer and good Manager, of which every Parish has some, keeps a pretty Sharp Look-out at the Vestry over the Proceedings of their Officers, and after Business is over a limited Sum (often a Crown or Ten Shillings only) is by Order of the Parish allowed to be spent at the Alehouse, where if they stay after it is at their own Expence.

That if any Frauds creep into a Parish Officer's Account it is easily detected, he having a Number of Overlookers and prying Eyes; and if a Discovery is made of an Attempt to cheat the Parish (that is every Parishoner)

his

his own and Family's Reputation will be lost, and they will lead a weary Life, and this makes them afraid.

Besides it is to be observed, that these Plantations will not tend to increase the Parish Frauds, as probably the Legislature will direct, that the Purchaser of the Timber before the first Tree is felled shall pay his Money into a safe Hand, from thence to be issued to discharge the Parish Accounts when settled by the Vestries, and confirmed by the Justices of Peace.

With respect to Negligence it must be observed, that the Process proposed will be obvious to all the World; and if there is Mismanagement it will be easily seen and known, and whose the Fault is, and complained of and redressed.

That an Emulation will probably arise amongst Parishes who shall outdo each other in their Plantations; and Shame and Reproach will be sensibly felt even by the Clown, and be a great Check; every Passer by will be furnished with Matter from his own Observation to goad them for their Laziness and Stupidity if they do ill, and to commend their good Deeds; and the Love of Praise is one of the strongest of Motives. But above all, their own Interest, in the Prosecution of which they are very crafty, will powerfully induce them, more especially as it falls in with their own Notions, as it is well known by Persons who are con-

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versant with them how much they prize thriving Timber when they are themselves the Proprietors, and what care they take to succour and preserve it, and how much they value themselves upon it. Besides, proper Persons might be appointed by Authority to inspect their Proceedings, that their ill Conduct may be speedily remedied; and in case of gross Negligence and Obstinacy after repeated Notice, Power may be given to levy a Penalty, which may make them stir and bustle to get remitted, as they now do to have Indictments taken off for not repairing the Roads in their District.

And to the foregoing Advantages this may be added as no inconsiderable one, that all expensive Disputes at Law about the Settlements of the Poor will, if these Plantations succeed, be put a stop to, as Parishes will then have a sufficient Fund to maintain such Poor as shall become chargeable wherever they reside; and will have no Occasion to vex themselves and other Parishes upon the Question, where was the Pauper's last legal Settlement; and the frequent Distresses brought upon the aged and infirm Poor, by Removals from one distant Parish to another, will by this means be also prevented.

It may be material here to mention for Consideration the following short and obvious Calculation, that is to say, as Trees one with another, and one sort with another, at fifty Years Growth, are worth twenty-five Shillings

lings upon a reasonable Computation, the annual Growth one Year with another will be six Pence each Tree ; and upon every Parish in the Kingdom planting upon an Average one thousand Trees, the Advantage will be two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds a Year ; if five thousand are planted in each Parish one with another, the Income upon the whole will be one million two hundred and fifty thousand Pounds a Year ; if ten thousand should be planted, then the total amount would be two millions five hundred thousand Pounds a Year, besides the Forest Fruit and Mast, and the many other concomitant Circumstances of Use and Service to our Country in general.

Upon which Foundation it is easy for ingenious Men to contrive, that the Charge and Expence of the Poor may be apportioned in such a manner, that in about twenty Years the Burthen of maintaining the Poor may be intirely taken off from the Kingdom, and Parishes provided with a sufficient Fund for building and repairing Churches and Bridges, and making and repairing their Roads.

No Money is wanting out of the public Treasury to encourage this Undertaking ; here is no room for Jobs, that subtle Men may avail themselves of. It promises more public Uses than one, many public Advantages of the greatest Moment may result from it, without a Possibility of Injury. It has been said upon good Grounds and Observations, that the Parish Churches in general throughout the Kingdom,

Kingdom, are very antient and decayed, infomuch that in a few Years the Expence of rebuilding them must become Matter of public Consideration; does not this point out to us the evident Necessity of raising a Supply of Timber without delay, as well for the Materials of one part of the Building as for defraying the Expence of the other? will not our Roads be better maintained, especially as those Parishes where they are worst will hereby be the richest?

The Foundling Hospital is an Institution of excellent Use, but not to be compared with the present in Point of Extent, even with respect to the redressing one of the worst of Evils, the destroying unborn and bastard Children. Every one knows how active Parish Officers generally are in the taking up of young Fellows, who are the putative Fathers, from an Apprehension of which they frequently run away, and desert the unhappy Women; but when Parishes come to be in good Circumstances, they will not proceed with Rigour, but humanely interpose to make Matters easy, and give Money upon Marriages sufficient to induce the young Man to marry willingly, which may be the raising of a Family, and the deceived Woman be made happy; who otherwise, upon her being abandoned in the midst of her Distress and Misery, is often tempted to destroy herself and Child, or, if she is delivered, to avoid Reproach, travels up to the Capital, and there in-

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creases

creases the Swarms of Prostitutes which infest our Streets, who, with respect to the Public, are an increasing and dangerous Nuisance, and are in a short time in themselves the most miserable of all human Beings.

It would be difficult for any Man to take upon him with any kind of Probability, to assert, that this Scheme will not take Effect, either in the whole or in Part; and as the subject matter of it is in the highest Degree, interesting to the Kingdom in general, in the present, and all future Ages, it is well worth the Trial. As no Inconvenience can arise from its not succeeding, the Nobility, Gentry and Clergy, will, no doubt, give their Assistance upon this important Occasion; and if it should succeed, the Generations to come will call us blessed. Great Events often arise from small Beginnings. It is no difficult matter, indeed, for a Man of Wit to give any thing a ridiculous turn; but the Concerns of a Nation are not to be sacrificed to a Jest. The Wisdom of Parliament can frame an Act with proper Clauses to effectuate this Design. For Mr. *Selden* observes, “all might go well in the Commonwealth, if every one
“in Parliament would lay aside his own Interest, and
“aim at the general Good. If a Man were sick, and
“the whole College of Physicians should come and ad-
“minister to him, haply so long as they observed the
“Rules of Art he might recover; but if one of them
“had a great deal of Scamony by him, he must put off
“that

“ that, therefore he prescribes Scamony another had a
 “ great deal of Rhubarb, and he must put off that, there-
 “ fore he prescribes Rhubarb, &c. they would kill the
 “ Man ; as we destroy the Commonwealth whilst we pre-
 “ serve our own private Interest, and neglect the Public.”

But we hope for a better State of Things from the public Spirit which now reigns. It is easy to lay out and stock these Nurseries, no Difficulty in making the Plantations, and that there is vacant Land sufficient, is visible to every Eye; insomuch that Foreigners upon travelling into our Country, which they acknowledge is a very fine one, have been amazed to find so large Tracts of Land lie in so neglected, unimproved, and slovenly a Condition, in an Island of no great Extent, but of the greatest Renown abroad, and whose Inhabitants are govern'd by the wisest Laws, and excited to Industry by the Enjoyment of their Civil and Religious Rights, to a greater degree than any other Kingdom in the World; and may these most transcendent of all human Blessings be as lasting as they are important !

When it is a proper time to fell and dispose of the Timber arising from the Plantations, such further Regulations may be laid down, and Checks put upon the issuing of the Money, as the Nature of the Case may require. And let the Fate of this Proposal be what it will, the Proposer hopes to deserve and to receive Pardon as having intended
 well,

well, by submitting a Subject acknowledged to be of vast Importance to his native Country to the public Canvass.

Upon the whole, though he is sensible of many Defects as a Writer, occasioned by a necessary Attendance to Avocations of a different Nature ; yet he hopes the Importance of his Design will atone for all his Deficiencies in the manner of proposing it. The Character of a fine Writer is by no means the Point he aimed at ; but that of having been a useful Member to Society would give him Pleasure. And if upon a general Consideration it should be found, notwithstanding small and private Inconveniencies, to be of great public Utility, he hopes it will be put into speedy Execution ; and the pleasing Consciousness of having promoted a Work that must probably be so beneficial to his Country, will sweeten the Remainder of his Life.

F I N I S.



